

The
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Club

BUREAU OF WATER P
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EXHIBIT

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JAN 25 2010

*From the desk of John Ruzsbatzky, CGCS
Certified by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America*

January 20, 2010

Dear Mr. Paul Stacey ,

I write to you today to provide testimony to the pending legislation that would potentially regulate water usage prior to stream systems being classified. My name is John Ruzsbatzky and I am the Golf Course Superintendent for The Country Club of Farmington. I have been employed by the Country Club for past 15 years and I have served on the Water Quality and Quantity Commission to develop BMP's for the state of Connecticut. I have always felt a huge obligation to the environment to be a responsible user of this most precious resource. The following represents a few of the steps taken by the Country Club over the years to make sure our water diversion is used responsibly.

1. Replaced an antiquated pumping system with a state of the art system that will be able to communicate with a future delivery system. This will ensure that no loss of water will ever occur when a pipe breaks in the future since the two systems will be in sync with one another.
2. We have delineated areas of the golf course as naturalized areas where drought tolerant grasses are used to reduce water needs.
3. We use wetting agent and water penetrate chemistries to make sure our water applications are as efficient as possible.

This is consistent with superintendents from around the state and is only a small segment of what we are doing to preserve our water resources. I would like to say that I fully support the states quest to find out what the water demands are on each individual water course and would support legislation that mandates metering so we can use actual data to support actual withdrawals. I believe, using 15 years of experience as my guide that we do not withdraw water in excess and we do not negatively impact our diversion source. At Farmington, we also have an obligation to keep our two ponds full so they support the aquatic life that inhabits them as well as the water course between the two. This is a recycling of water resources, not a usage with zero return.

I find the pending legislative philosophy troubling to say the least. To regulate something without knowing the classification of its source is not only irresponsible to the aquatic life depending on it but irresponsible to the citizens of the state who depend on it. I ask you to please consider this when proposing Stream Flow Regulations and consider how blanket regulations will negatively affect business throughout the state.

A statistic given by the DEP at the informational meeting held in December of 2009 stated that irrigation water accounts for less than 1% of total water consumed annually by the state of Connecticut. If this is accurate I would hope the legislature would consider keeping current diversion registrations in place. Thank you for your time and consideration as you move forward with this process.

Most Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ruzsbatzky", written over a horizontal line.

John Ruzsbatzky, CGCS
The Country Club of Farmington
Farmington, Connecticut